(a) whether it is a fact that of Personal Computers is on the rise in the country;

(b) if so, the number of Personal Computers sold during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there is corresponding increase in E-scrap, which is a health hazard;

(d) if so, whether Government proposed to issue guidelines on the safe disposal of computer waste; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Number of Personal Computers sold during the last three years, are as follows :—

Year	Lakh Units
2000-01	18.8
2001-02	16.7
2002-03	22.9

(c) The quantities used are too small to generate E-scrap of hazardous level

(d) and (e) International guidelines are available for reprocessing E-wastes in an environmentally sound manner. The Central Pollution Control Board has been asked by Ministry of Environment to study these and formulate suitable guidelines, keeping in view, *inter alia,* the composition of E-waste generated in the country.

Branch Post Office at Nandla, Himachal Pradesh

†2572. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION-TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to open Branch Post Office in village Nandla, in Shimla of Himachal Pradesh, during the year 2003-04;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) and (b) No, Sir. There is no proposal at present to open Extra Department Branch Post Office at village Nandla, District Shimla as it was not found justified on distance and financial norms.

(c) For opening of a Branch Post Office, the minimum distance from the nearest existing Post Office.should be 3 kms. and minimum anticipated income should be 15% of the cost. In this case, the proposed Post Office is 1.5 kms. from its nearest existing Post Office, Jangla and the assessed anticipated income is only 8.51% of the cost. Therefore, requisite distance and income norms are not fulfilled.

Telephone connections in Himachal Pradesh

2573. SHRI ANILSHARMA:Willthe Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of waiting list of telephone connections registered during the period from the 1st January, 2000 to the 30th June, 2003 in the Sub-Division Office (T), Rehan and Dehra in District Kangra, Himachal Pradesh;

(b) the present status thereof; and

(c) by when this waiting list would be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) and (b) The details of waiting list registered during the period from 1st January, 2000 to 30th June, 2003 in the Sub-Division Office (T) Rehan and Dehra and their present status is as under:-

Name of Telegraph Sub-Division	Waiting list registered from 1.1.2000 to 30.6.2003	Telephone connections provided	Present status of Waiting List
Dehra	2043	570	1473
Rehan	2771	1137	1634

(c) The waitlisted applicants are likely to get connections progressively before the end of the Financial Year.